

PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION SHEET

SARS CASE DEFINITION

Presumptive diagnosis of SARS-CoV infection depends upon both clinical criteria and exposure criteria as defined by the case definition. The case definition for SARS-CoV continues to change as more is learned about the virus, but it encompasses assessment of the following variables:

Clinical Criteria

- o Symptoms including:
 - Fever, and
 - Cough, shortness of breath, or other lower respiratory tract symptoms; and in some cases
 - Progressive pneumonia or adult respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)
- o Other symptoms may include:
 - Chills, rigors
 - Malaise
 - Myalgia
 - Diarrhea
 - Sore throat
 - Headache
- o Age of patient

Exposure Criteria

- o Travel history
- o Close contacts
- o High-risk occupation

The most up-to-date case definition can be found by visiting the following websites:

- o **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):**
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/casedefinition.htm
- o **The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE):**
www.cste.org
- o **The World Health Organization (WHO):**
www.who.int/csr/sars/en
- o **The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH):**
www.state.ma.us/dph

Contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at 617-983-6800 with questions pertaining to the case definition, testing, diagnosis of SARS, or reporting of a suspected case.

